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the glazed cover. When sufficient have been thus transferred to form a device, as a star, cross, initials, etc., they are placed under the $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch and with the hair they are, with patience as well as tact, pushed, coaxed and driven into the required position, taking care to leave the valves on their backs to avoid insurmountable trouble with air bubbles. The objects are then fixed by bringing them close to the mouth and moistening by a long slow breath. After drying again on the hot plate they may be freely mounted in balsam which may even be boiled if desired and the mounting finished at once. Only on the calmest of days can sufficient immunity from dust be obtained for successful work; and the care of the eyes should never be forgotten during this straining work.

THE PODURA SCALE.—Mr. Charles Brooke, in his President's Address before the Royal Microscopical Society, gives the following cool and excellent criticism on this much debated subject. "The writer, reviewing this subject under the dictates of common sense, when observing the familiar Podura notes of admiration well defined and free from colour, cannot resist the inference that in the objective all aberrations are nicely balanced, and the object truly represented in the visual image; on the contrary, when the same object is viewed as rows of ill-defined beads loaded with colours, it is difficult to avoid suspecting that the appearance is a spectral illusion, resulting from some unexplained diffraction or interference; and this suspicion can hardly be dispelled from his mind by anything short of rigid mathematical demonstration."

NOTES.

MR. JOHN E. GAVIT, President of the American Note Company of New York, died at his residence, Stockbridge, Mass., on the 26th of August, in the fifty-eighth year of his age. It is rare that one finds in the busy walks of life a man who, while filling an office demanding constant attention, unlimited resource of invention, executive ability and diplomacy as well, should yet find time to familiarize himself with the various branches of science, not only understanding them thoroughly, but capable of appreciating and discussing their bearings with those specially engaged in the subject. Of a man of such varied attainments, one would naturally ask, why he had not published the results of his work,—had not made known his inventions. Various reasons may be given: first the

unceasing and continuous demands of his business rendered it impossible for him to carry on an uninterrupted line of investigation. Above all things he abhorred the hasty publishing of novelties. In this respect he was perhaps hypercritical.

Nothing could be too complete for him, and to this demand on his part for as near approach to absolute perfection as possible, the country is indebted for the exquisite work presented by the Bank Note Company of which he was chief executive officer.

His power to detect merit was noteworthy, and many a young man can look back to Mr. Gavit for the incentive first given him to work, and to thank him too for placing the standard to be attained high above that level aimed at by most workers. While his science came in as a relief from his business duties, one was surprised to hear him converse freely on such diverse subjects as architecture and deep sea explorations, fertilization of flowers, geology, and the whole range of biological science.

To hear him was not to listen to what any intelligent man might know regarding such topics, but it was to gather the latest views and to hear something new. In fact one could never talk with him without seeing old facts placed in a new light and new facts added.

Mr. Gavit was best known as a microscopist, his collection of stands, objectives, and other apparatus being one of the finest in the country.—E. S. MORSE.

It will be remembered that Capt. Hall went as far north as 82° 16'. This has been exceeded by two Austrian explorers, Payer and Weyprecht, who penetrated into the frozen sea north of Siberia and discovered two hundred nautical miles north of Nova Zembla a mountainous country with glaciers and some vegetation and game, which they named Francis-Joseph Land. This was about one thousand miles in length so far as observed, and the northernmost point reached was Cape Vienna in latitude 83°.

A LOBSTER farm, as we learn from "Nature," has been established near Boston. On the seaward side it is closed by banks, having hatches or sluices so as to admit of the flow and ebb of the tide. Last summer about 40,000 lobsters of all sizes were deposited in this ground. In the winter 15,000 fine lobsters were sold. We should be glad to hear of the further success of this important undertaking.

"THE Sandwich Naturalist Association" was recently organized at Sandwich, Illinois. The following officers were elected:— Nahum E. Ballou, M. D. *President*, Prof. A. E. Bourne, *Secretary*, and Frank M. Webster, *Treasurer*.

THERE is a new floorcloth, said to be made of ground cork and glue on a foundation of canvas, which would be an economical substitute for sheet cork for lining insect boxes.—EGBERT BAGG, Jr., *Utica, N. Y.*

THE famous geologist, M. Elie de Beaumont, recently died in Paris at the age of 76. In 1856 he was made Perpetual Secretary of the French Academy, succeeding Arago.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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